



Ready to Protect, Proud to Serve

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Media Release



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BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

The Tucson Police Department is committed to our mission to reduce crime in our community. A component of that mission is educating our community members in ways to reduce their likelihood of victimization. **Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility**, and the Tucson Police Department would like to partner with our community to make our homes and neighborhoods safer by offering the following crime prevention tips:

Burglary Prevention – Points of Entry: Many burglaries are committed by opportunists who take advantage of inviting situations, such as open doors and windows, storage sheds and outbuildings without locks, pet doors, or obvious signs that a residence is unoccupied.

Keep all doors and windows closed and securely fastened. An open window or door is an open invitation for burglars, and has been a point of entry in a number of recent burglaries in Tucson.

Doors should have deadbolt locks with a one-inch throw and reinforced strike plate with three-inch screws. All windows should have window locks. Sliding glass doors should have a metal rod or piece of wooden dowel in the track, and vertical bolts to prevent lifting the door.

For residents with evaporative "swamp" coolers, who rely on an open window or door for enhanced airflow, consider a locking system that allows you to secure a window in a slightly opened position that is too small for entry.

These will help prevent burglars from forcing the door open or lifting it off the track.

If you have an attached garage, always lock the door that leads into the house. Don't rely on your automatic garage door mechanism for security. In addition, consider updating your older automatic opener to include one with enhanced security features. Don't get in the habit of leaving your garage vehicle-bay door open when you are home and only closing it at night. Thieves need just seconds to take valuables from an open garage.

Dog and cat doors or flaps are frequently used by burglars for gaining entry. If you must have a pet-access door, invest in one that has security features, and secure it if you will be away from home for an extended period.

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

Burglary Prevention – Environmental Deterrents: A burglar-friendly location is one that provides a thief with a sense of privacy, a reasonable expectation that no one is home, and an opportunity to take items of value that can be resold quickly.

Keep the perimeter of your home well lighted. Low-voltage lighting is relatively inexpensive.

Create the illusion that you are home through the use of timers on lights, radios and TV's.

Keep shrubbery trimmed away from entrances and walkways. They provide concealment for burglars.

Never leave clues that you are away on a trip. Have a trusted neighbor collect mail and newspapers while you are away so delivered items do not accumulate. You can also ask a neighbor to park in your driveway or parking place, and to open and close curtains and shades to make it appear that you are home.

Record serial numbers and take photographs or video of valuable items to aid recovery if stolen. Often, a serial number is the only way to reconnect a victim with their recovered stolen property.

Burglary Prevention – Social and Behavioral Tips: The simple rule is that if the information is not something you would provide to a complete stranger on the street, don't share it online.

Know who is in your home. Don't allow friends to bring unknown people to your home or host parties that are open to uninvited guests.

Never leave a message on your telephone answering machine telling people that you are away from home. A message that you will return at a certain time leaves your home vulnerable in the interim.

Restrict access to your social media pages to family and close friends. Don't accept "friend" requests unless you are convinced that you know and trust the sender. Don't post about upcoming vacation dates or times when you will be away from home, or update your "status" to tell others that you are currently sitting on a tropical beach, and not at home.

Organize or actively participate in a neighborhood watch program. An alert community is a safe community, and your neighbors will be the first ones to recognize when someone or something is out of place.

Call 911 as soon as you see something suspicious occurring. Allow the police the opportunity to investigate the situation before it becomes a crime.

These tips are not intended to be all-inclusive, but rather a basic guide that provides some common sense and practical tips for citizens. With very little effort and no, or sometimes minimal, expense, we can all take steps to make our properties less attractive targets for criminal activity.

For more crime prevention tips as well as contact information for our Neighborhood Watch coordinators, please visit our website at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/police/crime-prevention>.

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